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SOME
Cool Thoughts,
ON THE
Present State of Affairs.

[PRICE, ONE SHILLING.]

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Cool Thoughts



Present State of Affairs

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ON THE

Present State of Affairs ;

WITH

A Word to the OLD SERVANT,

*The Devil is the Father of Lyes, and
was a Lyar from the beginning.*

L O N D O N :

Printed, for J. COOKE, in Pater-Noster-Row. 1762.

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Cool Thoughts

ON THE

Present State of Affairs;

WITH

A Word to the Old Servant.



The Dawn is the Father of Day, and
was a Light from the beginning.

L O N D O N :

Printed, for J. Cooper, in Pall Mall Lane, 1811.



COOL THOUGHTS, &c.

EVERY true friend to his country must be uneasy to see it split and divided into factions and parties, at any time, but more particularly so, at this juncture; when the true interest of Old England, calls aloud for the most confirmed and inflexible unanimity. I own it gives me to see those parties

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encouraged

encouraged and fomented, by the very men that ought to employ all their vigilance to discourage and annihilate them. The paultry scribblers, of our modern political essays, would soon *sing small*, were they not encouraged, and rewarded, by men in power.

Whoever calls to mind the clamour and the calumny, the artificial fears and jealousies, the shameful misrepresentations of persons, and things, that were raised, and spread by the leaders, and instruments of a *certain party*, upon the change of a late *great* minister ; if he be a true friend to his country, must feel a mighty pleasure, although mixed with some indignation, to see the wishes, the conjectures, the endeavours of an inveterate faction, entirely disappointed. P---, was the man, and from the bustle, noise, and shew of opposition, especially among the citizens, I began to think the
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nation could never flourish under the administration of any other person.

Notwithstanding our amazing successes continue, and the credit of the nation is daily increasing, insomuch that the like was hardly ever known in any war, yet we find some of those little barking pens, which have so constantly adhered to the *great man*, still pursuing the present ministry with all the rancour of an enraged and disappointed party; which however, I take to be of no further consequence to their plans, *than the scoffing slaves of old, placed behind the chariot of the general, to put him in mind of his mortality; which was but a thing of form, and made no stop, or disturbance in the show.* Among the advocates for this *great personage*, I am a little surprised to see my old friend Mr. Heath-

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cote,

cote, stand forth, with so much resolution, and old English courage.

Mr. P---, may have great merit, and I hope, well deserves the reward he has obtained for his past services. But, my worthy friend, why do you say, his services are unparalleled, and that his genius and skill, is unequalled? have not our successes since the resignation of this oracle, sufficiently proved, that we have men as uncorrupt, as learned in politics, and men that wish as well to the true interest of their country, as this phenomenon. I should imagine, my good sir, you had been reading the *Monitor*, or the *North-Briton*! this gentleman, with great modesty, absolutely and *bona fide*, asserts, that Mr. P--- is the shrewdest politician, and the best minister, this nation ever had, has now, or in all probability ever will have; he might have added
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in his opinion ; for it is very evident, every *true* Englishman will not subscribe to it. It is true that Great-Britain was not in that high credit six years ago, she is now ; and it was necessary some bold push should be made to redeem the lost honour of the nation. The people on their parts, chearfully subscribed larger sums than was ever known before ; to be expended in the execution of such plans and expeditions, as was judged, by the gentlemen at the helm, to be most salutary for such praise-worthy purposes ; in consequence of which, large fleets, well manned, and better commanded, were fitted out, and sent with a proper number of land forces, against the settlements and fleets of our enemies. The success they met with, was what we have always been taught to expect, from the valour and intrepidity of British soldiers and seamen, commanded by a Hawk,

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an Amhurst, a Pocock, a Howe, a Boscowen, &c. Yes, says the ill-informed, and unthinking citizen, but if P--- had not planned, and *guided* those expeditions, they never would have been thought of. Wonderful ! we are at war with an enemy, and seeing her plunder us daily, of our riches, and destroying our trade and commerce, and we, good natured, easy Britons, stand and look on, and never so much as fit out a fleet, or send an army to oppose them. This is a new system of politics, and such a system as I believe no man ever heard of before,

What I have hitherto said, hath by no means been intended to detract from the qualities of this great favourite ; but, had he been a considerate cool man, a Cromwell in politics, and a *true lover of his country*, I think he would not have resigned his post because he met with a
flight

slight opposition, and because the rest of his Majesty's trusty servants, would not precipitately subscribe to his opinion. Would not a good politician have persevered a little, and have tried to gain by fair reasoning, and gentle means, what he could not forcibly cram down their throats, in an instant?

But, to return to his successes. That Mr. P--- may have planned some of our most successful expeditions, I make no doubt. When a building is to be erected, the model may be the contrivance only of one head, and it is sufficient that the other workmen be ordered to cut stones into certain shapes, and place them in certain positions; but the several master-builders must have some general knowledge of the design, without which they can give no orders at all. I could produce innumerable instances from my
own

own memory, and observation, of events imputed to the profound skill and address, of a minister, which, in reality, were either the mere effects of negligence, weakness, humour, passion, or pride; or at best, but the natural course of things left to themselves.

In like manner I have heard a physician pronounce with great gravity that he had cured so many patients of malignant fevers, and as many more of the small-pox; whereas in truth, nine parts in ten of those who recovered, owed their lives to the strength of nature and a good constitution, while such a one happened to be their doctor.

This Mr. Heathcote is a very odd way of reasoning, but I lugged in these families in order to pay a just tribute to our gallant soldiers and sailors, and the great skill, bravery,

bravery, and unanimity, of our land and sea officers, to whose abilities, we owe more than Mr. P---'s friends are willing to acknowledge. There certainly are many men in this nation, that know what colonies and settlements, are now in the possession of our enemies; but, to know the exact situation, and unguarded accessible parts, and what strength will be sufficient to reduce them, even the sagacious Mr. P---, I apprehend, would have had recourse to our land and sea officers, who, according to the common course of things, must be better informed than any minister can be.

We are at length, I hope near bringing things to a happy issue, and I am really surpris'd and shocked, to see so many able heads shut themselves out by adhering to a *faction*; at a time when

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they might be of singular service to their country. Surely those men cannot worthily be called *true Englishmen*! Oh that our ministers, and men in power, were but as disinterested, as loyal, and as unanimous as our land and sea officers! with such a set of men what might not be effected? Might we not have terms from our enemies, that would make every English heart sing for joy?

We have a prince upon the throne, whose benevolence and humanity, and universal philanthropy, has justly gained him the love and esteem of his subjects. This prince too, even the factious themselves, pretend to adore. And here I must take occasion to observe, that those great, and excellent persons we see at the head of affairs, are of the k---'s own personal voluntary choice, and not as has been said, forced upon him by any
insolent

insolent over-grown favourite, or by the pretended necessity of complying with an unruly faction.

Yet these are the persons whom those scandals to the press, in their daily pamphlets and papers, openly revile at so ignominious a rate, as I believe was never tolerated before under any government. For, surely, no lawful power derived from a prince, should be so far affronted as to leave those who are in authority, exposed to every scurrilous libeller. Because, in this point I make a wide difference between, those who are *in*, and those who are *out* of power; not on account of their persons, but the stations they are placed in by their sovereign. And, if my distinction be right, I think I might appeal to any man, whether, if a stranger were to read the invectives, which are daily published against the present minis-

try, and against those who censure the last, he would not conclude the latter to be in full power, and the former entirely at mercy? But all this now ceases to be a wonder, since royalty itself is no longer spared; witness several late publications. But to return to my old acquaintance Mr. Heathcote. What my worthy friend could prompt you to put yourself in such a violent passion about Preliminaries, that you candidly own, you know nothing of, or what is next to nothing, for you say, you gathered your information from the news papers. Very good authority truly, to lay the foundation of an eighteen-penny pamphlet. Had you been a poor author, instead of a citizen, that is obliged to prostitute his pen for a beef-stake, I could have excused you. Know you not sir, to talk in your own way, that the conductors of news papers, put in any thing by way of a paragraph, to fill up; and that they often occasion two or three more to

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contradict that one. This is a *political* way of trade, which I thought you in the city had understood much better. Is it not amazing that you should from reading a false paragraph, in a lying news paper (for I am authorised to say the terms offered by France have not yet been made public) put yourself in a passion and talk of cutting off heads and confiscating estates, &c. Your brain must have been turned by reading those curious productions; for surely the following question must have been penned with the flaver at your mouth. But as you are old, I will be merciful, and spare you.

Question put by Mr. Heathcote, to the British Ministry.

Q. Do you not know, if you advise your master to make an unsafe and dishonourable peace, tending to raise France again from her present low condition, to her

her late dangerous prosperity, which had almost undone Great Britain, and threatened her and all the states of Europe with *French* slavery, under universal monarchy; do you not know, I say, that the people are in possession of an undoubted right, as antient as the entrance of the Saxons, and confirmed a-fresh to them at the Revolution by the Bill of rights, to lay their grievances before the throne, to petition for redress, and for the removal of evil counsellors? And do you not know likewise, that the people have a right to lay their grievances before their representatives assembled in Parliament, and petition them to bring ministers to the bar of justice, for misbehaviour in administration; and that the Commons of Great Britain can, in Parliament assembled, impeach ministers; and that if they are proved guilty, the lords can inflict punishments adequate to their crimes; and that the two Houses of a *British* parliament can with the Royal Assent (if necessary

necessary or expedient) *confiscate estates*, and *condemn* to the scaffold or gibbet, even by a law *ex post facto*? What reason then have you to imagine, that *all these* will not exercise their several rights, and discharge the duties they owe the community they are members of, whenever the very existence of their country is at stake, and the preservation of it depends upon an *exaction* of the *severest* JUSTICE?

Pray reader observe that the answer is likewise written by Mr. Heathcote.

A. *Mercy! Mercy! Mercy!*

I shall proceed to answer this author's other questions, which he has not thought proper to answer himself.

QUESTION.

Whether any nation can have a right to invade another, or any of its colonies
and

and possessions, and to butcher the people without mercy, either by themselves or by inhuman savages?

A N S W E R.

They may expect to be severely punished for such behaviour, which France has sufficiently experienced.

Q U E S T I O N.

If any nation is so unjustly invaded and injured, has she not a right, by the law of nature, the law of nations, and the law of God, to defend herself against such an enemy and make reprisals, to keep what she takes in war to indemnify herself for all the charges of a war entered upon in her just defence, and to distress the aggressor so far as is necessary for her own future security and peace?

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A N S W E R.

All this has been done on the part of Great-Britain.

Q U E S T I O N.

Hath not *France*, without the least provocation from us, invaded and plundered our colonies and possessions in *America*, in breach of treaties, and inhumanly butchered our fellow subjects, both by themselves and *Indian* savages ?

A N S W E R.

France had some provocation, but if she had not, her aspiring insolence has been sufficiently chastised.

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Q U E S.

QUESTION.

Hath not *Great-Britain* the same right in common with all nations to defend herself against such injuries done her by *France*, and to retain what she has taken from her in the present just and necessary war, in order to indemnify herself for the charges of it, and establish her future security and peace?

ANSWER.

Hath not Great-Britain defended herself against those injuries? and how do you know she will not indemnify herself for the expence she has been at in such defence? and establish a lasting and honourable peace?

QUES-

Q U E S T I O N.

Can *Great-Britain* restore any of her conquests in *America* or *Africa* to *France*, without restoring to her the power of endangering her security and peace, but also of putting a total period to her national existence ?

A N S W E R.

It is not yet known what Great-Britain will restore to France, and therefore this question is not put with propriety.

Q U E S T I O N.

Hath not *France* been a Most notorious treaty breaker, and hath she not

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broke

broke every treaty she ever made with this nation ?

A N S W E R.

France has broke many treaties and her perfidy ought to be guarded against as much as possible.

Q U E S T I O N.

Can Great-Britain, consistent with her own security and peace, or any rule of policy, trust that notorious treaty breaking and perfidious nation ?

A N S W E R.

If ever we have a peace at all, we must trust her again, nor can we entirely guard against her treachery.

Q U E S.

Q U E S T I O N.

Is any one concession made by France, in the preliminaries published, that can possibly indemnify *Great Britain* for the immense charges she has been at in defending her just rights and protecting her subjects from *French* slavery, and why is so material and necessary an article omitted in the preliminaries?

A N S W E R.

The preliminaries have not been published at all by authority. The preliminaries published in Mr Heathcote's news paper are not to be depended on.

Q U E S T I O N.

Can our more than christian *Samaritans*, and most illustrious heroes, since the

the days of the first warriors, whose examples they seem so closely to imitate, produce a single instance from history of any nation, that, after being in a less degree than we have been, unjustly invaded and injuriously treated, restored their conquests to the offending party, if she herself was in a condition to maintain them; especially when such a restitution would have enabled her enemy to have compleated her ruin; and are not we in a condition to maintain our conquests over France, and to secure ourselves for the future against the fatal effects of her boundless ambition; and must we not expect all the calamities of a conquered people, if we again trust her with those weapons which will impower her to work our destruction, and which we are sure she will employ to that purpose?

A N S W E R.

When we have made such restitution, and become a conquered people, Mr. Heathcote will have reason to laugh at us.

Q U E S T I O N.

What national reason can be given for making concessions to conquered *France* that so evidently tend to her exaltation and the perdition of *Great Britain*?

A N S W E R.

What concessions has Great Britain made to France that can at all tend to her perdition? Till I know that, this important question must remain unanswered.

Q U E S.

Q U E S T I O N.

Is it possible for any *Briton* in the South or North of this island to approve of conditions so shameful, dishonourable, injurious, and fatal to his native country?

A N S W E R.

It is possible for a man to be a very great rogue, but whether we have any one among us that will endeavour to ruin his country, we shall see in the sequel.

Q U E S T I O N.

If any such there should unhappily be, will he not justly deserve that severe justice which is due to the highest crimes it is possible to commit.

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A N S W E R.

When we find such a man we'll play the D---l with him, and send him to S---d bare footed and without a penny in his pocket; which is the greatest punishment we can inflict upon a native of N. B.

My author then goes on;

My Lord and Sirs, we have seen what generous and astonishing concessions, the public papers have made to *France*, and what niggardly and disadvantageous ones that artful and treacherous Court, hath made to us. From hence it will appear that all the AUTHENTIC information this cholerick old gentleman has got, has been gathered from the exhaustless fountain of news-papers, I shall therefore dismiss him without farther notice, for I apprehend

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that

that most of my readers see the newspapers as well as Mr. Heathcote, tho' they do not seem to have got the *nack* of improving upon them so well. Considering the many grievous misrepresentations of persons and things, it is really highly necessary, at this Juncture that the people throughout the kingdom should, if possible, be set right in their opinions by some impartial hand, which hath never been yet attempted; those who have hitherto undertaken it, being upon every account the least qualified of all humankind for such a work. I own myself very unequal to so arduous a task, but before I dismiss this subject I will beg the reader's patience while I take a short view of the writers on both sides of the question. The MONITOR and the NORTH BRITON are the two principal papers that bawl so loudly for *liberty* and *justice*; the former has been taken up for this six months in
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giving a history of all the royal favourites from the landing of Julius Cæsar down to to the present year 1762. A noble work ! and calculated to answer noble purposes ! If we consider it is written and conducted by a clergymen that has already had his gown stript over his ears for his *good behaviour*, and corrected and fitted for the press by a learned common-council man, under the influence of a rich alderman, well known for his enthusiastic attachment to the party of a certain great *Patriot*, if we consider all this I say, we shall be in no doubt about the *utility* and *impartiality* of such a publication. The latter (the NORTH BRITON) seems to have been calculated, from the first, to abuse poor Scotland, and every body that is unfortunate enough to be born there. We seldom look into this paper, but we find an ironical penygeric on oatmeal and brimstone. In another place,

the fertility and richness of the country is set forth in capitals, as large as the title of the GHOST; and who are the witty authors of this *national production*? Oh shame to the gown! another parson! We are not surpris'd at any thing from this quarter, for its well known the author never drew his pen but to abuse, and so indiscriminately does he scatter his favours, that he cares not where they fall, through thick and thin he goes, nor spares, nor friend nor foe. I have heard this modest gentleman publicly declare, that he knew no more of the political state of this nation, than Buck-horse himself, yet such a propensity has he to scandal and abuse, that he could not bear to stand idle, while there was so much business going forward in his *own way*; we are not therefore at all surpris'd to find him in the service of a colonel,

lonel, famous for his *sinsere* attachment to the present government.

These are the props of LIBERTY, these the men that give counsel to the---, and laws to the people. What good may not be expected from such *able heads*, and such *honest hearts*? In opposition to those formidable libellers, appear the AUDITOR and the BRITON; but as the right side has not always the most strength, it will be sufficient to say, that the former is written by a hireling, a tool to a man in power, who is said to be as sly and sagacious, as a Fox. And the latter, by a compiler of magazines; known likewise to the public, as the author of an *Impartial and Complete History of England*. As to the abilities of those gentlemen, I shall only observe that weak advocates always hurt a good cause.

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Any thing that tends in any degree to foment or mislead the minds of the people, whether written by a blockhead or a man of genius, is of bad consequence in all governments, and in my opinion notoriously wicked. To alienate the affections of the people from their sovereign, is the way to make both unhappy. It is Machiavel's observation, that the people when left to their own judgment, do seldom mistake their true interests. However, they are to be deceived by several means, it hath often happened in Greece and sometimes in Rome that those very men who have contributed to shake off a former tyranny, have, instead of restoring the old constitution, deluded the people into a worse and more ignominious slavery; besides, all great changes have the same effect upon commonwealths that thunder hath upon liquors; making the dregs fly up to the top: the lowest plebeians

plebeians rise to the head of affairs, and there preserve themselves by representing the nobles and other friends, to the true government, as enemies to the public. Heaven forbid this should ever be the case in England ! From the general disposition of the people, I believe most men wish for peace, provided they can have it upon good terms. But it will not be a little difficult to persuade the multitude, that any terms are advantageous for this nation, while they are taught to believe otherwise, by the leaders of so vile a faction. You shall frequently hear the partizans of the late great man, gravely and decisively pronounce, that the present ministry cannot possibly last. Some of those gentlemen are employed to shake their heads in proper companies ; to doubt where all this will end ; to be in mighty pain for the nation ; to shew how impossible it

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is the public credit should be supported ; to pray that all may do well in whatever hands ; but very much to doubt that the *Pretender* is at the bottom. I know not any thing so nearly resembling this behaviour, as what is often seen among the friends of a sick man, whose interest it is that he should die : the physicians protest they see no danger ; the symptoms are good ; the medicines operate kindly ; yet still they are not to be comforted ; they whisper, he is a dead man ; it is not possible he should hold out, he hath perfect death in his face ; they never liked this doctor : at last the patient recovers, and their joy is as false as their grief.

But to leave those barking curs to themselves, let us consider, as we are likely at all events to have a peace, how we are to make that peace safe, honourable,

able, lasting and advantagous to Great Briton. We are blest with a prince, who, besides all virtues that can enter into the composition of a private person, possesseth every regal quality that can contribute to make a people happy: of great wisdom for his years, yet ready to receive the advice of his counsellors: of much discernment in chusing proper instruments, when he is left to his own judgment, and only capable of being deceived by that excess of goodness, which makes him judge of others by himself: frugal in his management, in order to contribute to the public good, which he doth, and that voluntarily, beyond any of his subjects: but from his own nature generous and charitable to all who want or deserve: and in order to exercise those virtues, denying himself all entertainments of expence which many others enjoy.

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And can you, oh ye of little faith; suspect that a prince with all these amiable qualities, will suffer himself to be cajoled after our great successes, supposing any man weak or wicked enough to attempt it, to sign an inglorious peace? Do you suspect that he has corrupt and evil counsellors: if you do, as loyal subjects and faithful servants, point out the danger, and lay your doubts and fears at his majesty's feet. You have a gracious prince that will patiently hear your complaints and redress your grievances. Ask with confidence, modesty, and affection, and you will easily obtain by fair remonstrance and reason, what cannot be granted to insolence, calumny, and disaffection. 4 OC 58

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